

## Night 18

Highlights from Surah Al-Ankabut : It starts with a verse that reflects the theme of the surah: *Do people think that they will be left alone because they say: "We believe," and will not be tested*<sup>[29:2]</sup>. *"And We indeed tested those who were before them. And Allâh will certainly make (the truth of) the truthful known, and will certainly make (the falsehood of) of liars known."*<sup>[29:3]</sup> This Surah strengthens and encourages the sincere Muslims and puts to shame those who were showing weakness of the faith. It also threatens the disbelievers of Makkah with the punishment of Allah. The stories mentioned in this Surah impress the same point consistently: "Look at the Prophets of the past: they were made to suffer great hardships and were treated cruelly for long periods. But in the end, Allah helped them. Therefore, be patient: Allah's assistance will certainly come. But one has to go through a period of trial and tribulation." In effect Muslims are told: "If you feel that the persecution has become unbearable for you, you should give up your homes, instead of giving up your Faith: Allah's earth is vast: seek a new place where you can worship Allah with peace of mind." Duties of a Muslim: Recite (O Muhammad<sup>SAW</sup>) what has been revealed to you of the Book (the Qur'ân); perform *As-Salât*: Verily, *As-Salât* prevents from *Al-Fahshâ'* (sins of every kind, immorality, obscenity) and *Al-Munkar* (disbelief, evil wicked deed); and indeed the Zikr (remembering, praising) of Allah (by you) is the greatest. And Allâh knows what you do.

Highlights from Surah Ar-Rum: In the initial verses Allah<sup>SWT</sup> made a prediction: *The Romans have been defeated in the nearer land (Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Palestine), and they, after their defeat, will be victorious within three to nine years. The decision of the matter, before and after (these events) is only with Allâh, (before the defeat of Romans by the Persians, and after, i.e. the defeat of the Persians by the Romans). And on that Day, the believers will rejoice (at the victory of the Romans against the Persians),*<sup>[30:2-4]</sup>. Theme: Man only sees what is visible to his eyes but the knowledge of the unseen is with Allah (SWT), Who Has power over all things. The prediction is one of the most outstanding evidences of the Quran's being the Word of Allah and RasulAllah<sup>SAW</sup> being a Messenger of Allah. The Surah predicted the victory of Roman Christians over disbelieving Persians and hinted that Muslims will also be victorious over Quraish. At the time there seemed to be no chance for either victory and, therefore, the Quraish laughed at the claim of the Qur'an. But after the prophecy of the Qur'an came true, no one could have any doubt and most of the Arab polytheists accepted Islam.

Highlights from Al-Luqman: Theme: In this Surah the people are informed that shirk is nonsense and absurd, and the Tauhid is the Truth. They are invited to give up blind imitation of their forefathers and reflect with open mind on what Prophet Muhammad<sup>SAW</sup> has brought from the Lord of the worlds, and see the manifest Signs of Allah SWT in the universe and in your own selves.